

DECEMBER

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2023



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and roll-over effects

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The Magic Lantern Calendar – December 2023

Events

Dec. 1-2, 2023, **Lamplight Tours**, with magic lantern presentation by Matt Schnittker, Columbia State Historic Park – meet at Columbia Museum, 22747 Main St, Columbia, CA 95310.

Dec. 2-3, 2023, **A Christmas Ship**, revel in traditional Victorian entertainment and meet the various members of the crew of the HMS Warrior. Be wowed by the Magic Lantern Show with Professor Alan Brindle. Portsmouth Site, Victory Gate, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LJ, UK.

Dec. 4, 2023, **Auction of the Banham Family Magic Lantern Collection**, Bearnas Hampton and Littlewood, St. Edmund's Court, Okehampton Street, Exeter EX4 1DU, UK. Catalog at <https://auctions.bhandl.co.uk/auctions/8741/bearne10139>

Dec. 6, 2023, **The Wonderful World of the Victorian Magic Lantern**, a John Townsend presentation on magic lanterns, slides, and everything related to them, the Armitt Museum, Rydal Road, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9BL, UK.

Dec. 7, 2023, **Stilled Shadows**, show combining the talents of novelist Chloe Aridjis, Magic Lanternists Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker, and James Keay, musical director of Gifford's Circus, Swedenborg Hall, Barter St., London WC1A 2TH, UK.

Dec. 9, 2023, **Victorian Magic Lantern Show**, Governor's Victorian Holiday Ball, King Manor, 150-03 Jamaica Ave, Jamaica, NY 11423.

Dec. 16, 2023, **Zooming Towards Christmas**, The Magic Lantern Society (UK), online.

Jan. 20, 2024, **Annual General Meeting 2024**, The Magic Lantern Society, The Musical Museum, 399 High Street, Brentford, London, TW8 0DU, UK.

Apr. 26, 2024, **Magic Lantern Keynote**, presented by members of the NW Group, Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada, Port Townsend Victorian Festival, Port Townsend WA 98368 USA.

June 15-16, 2024, **A Summer Excursion to the Netherlands**, special meeting of the Magic Lantern Society (UK), Den Haag, Netherlands.

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The Magic Lantern Calendar – December 2023

Exhibits

Through Dec. 2026, **The Story of the Moving Image**, includes shadow puppets, Victorian-era magic lanterns, original cameras and more, Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Fed Square, Melbourne, Australia <https://www.acmi.net.au/whats-on/story-of-the-moving-image-exhibition/>.

Ongoing, **The Path to Cinema: Highlights from the Richard Balzer Collection**, Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, Los Angeles CA USA. 9,000 magic lantern objects collected by former MLS president Richard Balzer. <https://www.academymuseum.org/en/exhibitions/path-to-cinema>

Online

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom.
Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids' Page. www.magiclanternmuseum.com

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.



Annual Board of Directors Meeting

The Society's officers held its annual meeting on November 15, 2023 in accordance with our Bylaws Article 3.6. All five officers attended the virtual meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer has meeting notes on file.

- Matt has been busy with 2024 Convention planning, see separate notice in this ePub.
- David and Lesley continue their fine work as Gazette editors but David is writing more articles himself than he would like to, due to a limited number of articles submitted by members. Members, please keep those articles coming to share your interests and knowledge.
- Organizational Status: Following the Society receiving its Federal 501(c)(3) determination early in 2023, the final steps of the transition have been completed with a State business license obtained and new bank accounts opened under the new federal EIN number. The old bank accounts have been closed. This completes the transition that the Board started in the spring of 2022. Ongoing, State and Federal annual reports will be filed to maintain our non-profit status. Both have been filed for 2023.
- The Board conducted its annual review of its Conflict of Interest Policy as required by Article VII and found no conflicts that would jeopardize the Society's status as a non-profit.



Convention 2024

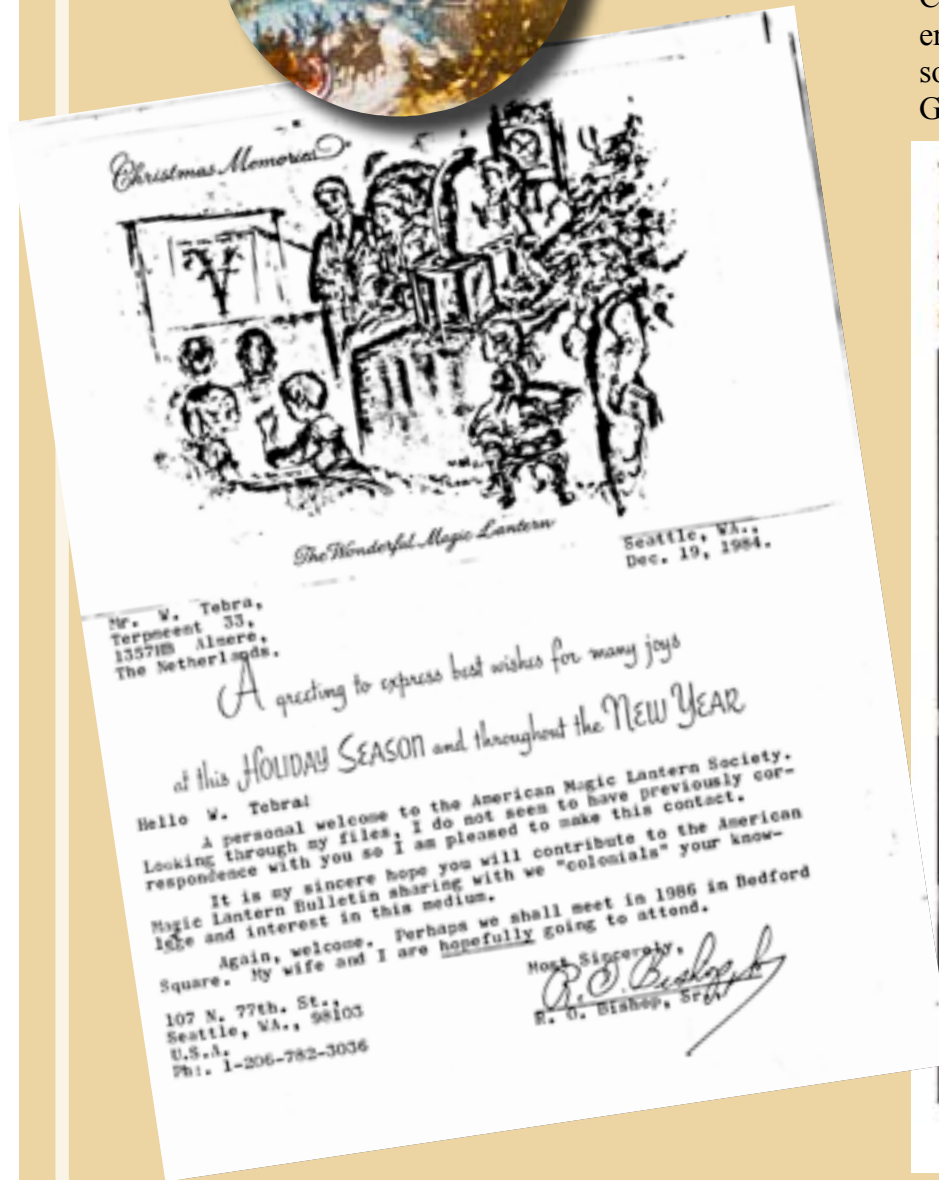
Plans for our 20th Convention in 2024 in the Los Angeles area are well underway and we anticipate three days of shows, presentations, opportunities to buy/sell, and of course meet up with friends old and new. Expect a mix of shows and presentations ranging from research, comical, traditional magic lantern shows, and new interpretations of the media. To borrow a quote from our second convention in 1984, we will feature & “a number of crackerjack lantern shows.”

We are looking at dates the fall, mid-September to early November, as potential venues are visited and arrangements made. We aim to have hotel dates finalized by the end of 2023. Plan to stay a few extra days before or after to enjoy the rich culture and sites of southern California.



From Ron Easterday

Christmas welcome letter from TOP to Willem Tebra of The Netherlands, an early member of the Society. Letter courtesy of Willem's son, Hans Tebra. Willem wrote six articles for the ML Bulletin and ML Gazette between 1985-1997



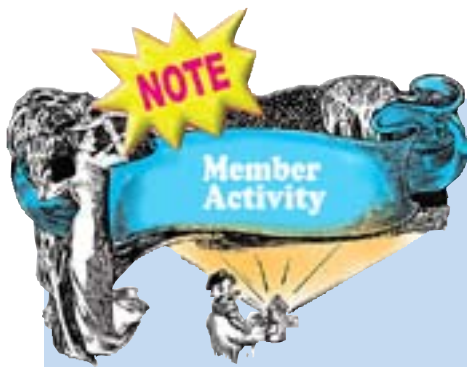
The Old Projectionist

Bob Bishop is the *Old Projectionist* and the name of his program is *The Last Magic Lantern Show*. Starting in the early '60s The Old Projectionist, presented shows all over the NW and as far south as Florida and north to Alaska. Presenting at fairs, film festivals, theaters, National and State parks, historical societies and grade schools to universities.



Bob Bishop first became aware of the magic lantern after seeing a program by Lawrence Denny Lindsley. Lindsley, a life long photographer, made his own lantern slides. Lindsley, had worked for Aachel Curtis, brother of Edward Curtis. Both brothers were renowned photographers of the northwest.

In the beginning Bob's wife Carmaleita participated in producing the programs. She made costumes, created transparencies, and on occasion even put on the program. In fact Carmaleita was the one who suggested that Bob go public and show his collection of lantern material.



From Matt Schnittker
mschnitt@gmail.com

I was invited by Old Town San Diego State Park to perform with the Magic Lantern at their Dia De Los Muertos event.

The Seely Theater used to have regular shows before COVID but had been essentially unused since 2019. I set up on the stage and projected on the back wall of the theater. It was a really nice setup!



We have our own "Sandwich Board" we bring to events to give showtimes. Instead of chalk, we have magnetic letters we made on the laser engraver.

A Past San Diego Show



The theater lights were directional and focused so I had full illumination on me, but the room was dark.

It was a neat historic venue and a really fun event. A great chance to share the lantern with an exceptionally diverse audience.



Responses From Members to Looking for a Shorter Reading



From Chris Klemmer
chris.klem@icloud.com

Your request for a more contemporary and shorter version of the Darius Green poem got me wondering if ChatGPT could do what you seek. So I posed it the query — “Rewrite the following poem in contemporary English and halve the number of words while retaining a similar poetic style:” and gave it the beginning text of the poem. Here is its unedited reply.

Once lived a Yankee lad, no doubt,
Wise or not, good or bad throughout,
He watched birds soaring high above,
But never tried to take to the sky, with love.

He'd not leap with flapping attire,
Or wish to climb any higher,
Just wondered why He couldn't fly,
Wishing and flapping, he'd never comply.

A country boy who'd seldom prance,
Never dared that flying dance,
I must confess, it's a clear sign,
He'd never be a hero of mine.

Darius Green, an aspiring dreamer's name,
A farmer's son, in life's early game,
Tall and lanky, lean and keen,
Perfect for flight, as it'd be seen,
Two bright eyes, like beans, they gleam,
A freckled nose, right in between,
A bit askew, his full attention was keen,
Focused on his incredible invention scene.

Twisting his tongue, twisting strings so fine,
Working his face, working wings to design,
With each turn of screws, as his plan unfurled,
His mouth turned and twisted in this flying world.
His nose seemed to bend,
A hint of pie scent to comprehend,
Cheeks and squinting eyes, wrinkled and true,
Formed a queer, wise grimace, a unique view.

Is this helpful or interesting?

continued next page

Responses From Members continued

From Ron Easterday

Thanks much, I never would have thought of that. I am laboring through a manual editing of the poem, this give me some other ideas.

Thanks

Ron

From Edward Murray

edleemu1@verizon.net

Good morning Ron,

Hope all is well.

I know nothing about this, am very interested in it though.

Do these slides go to this set, or another, do you know their names or set names?

e



From Stephanie Delazeri

stephinthebox@sbcglobal.net

Hello

The flying machine image is redrawn version of the drawing titled “The Flying Ship of Bartolomeu de Gusmao” (1709).

<https://airandspace.si.edu/multimedia-gallery/nasm-b091251b3fe22001jpg>

And the Arctic slide is most likely from a collection focusing on Victorian expeditions that tried to find the ill-fated 1845 arctic expedited by Sir John Franklin. Here are examples of other arctic collections that have a similar slide to the one in the screenshot (ie. image including star with halo, ship in the back and a group pulling a sled).

<https://www.magiclanternman.com/>

<https://www.slideshare.net/sworders/sworders-fine-interiors-4-5th-december-2018>

<https://w3.ric.edu/faculty/rpotter/kanelant.html>

-Stephanie



Lantern Slides of Belgium Dated 1917

From Susan Chinnici Moyer

susanjetta@gmail.com

Good Morning,

We have purchased a 1809 home and found a wooden box of approximately 90 glass lantern slides of Belgium dated 1917. Please let me know if your society would be interested in them or know where to direct us. We do not want to just throw them in the bin or put them on a shelf if there is a person who would like them.

Thank you for reading my correspondence.
Susan

Good morning,
I appreciate the opportunity for someone to want these slides. I am sending you the collection on a light table with a few close up pictures. Most of them are from a Philadelphia photographer and about 15 are from National Geographic.
Thank you for your assistance,
We live in Philadelphia.
Susan



From David Evans

Hello Susan

Thank you for the pictures and extra information. William H Rau of Philadelphia in 1894 issued an extensive catalogue of slides that included over 100 of Belgium and thousands of the world in general. The images are of fine quality. The catalogue mentions The Bible, History, Science and Art on the front cover.

Let us hope we can find someone for them.

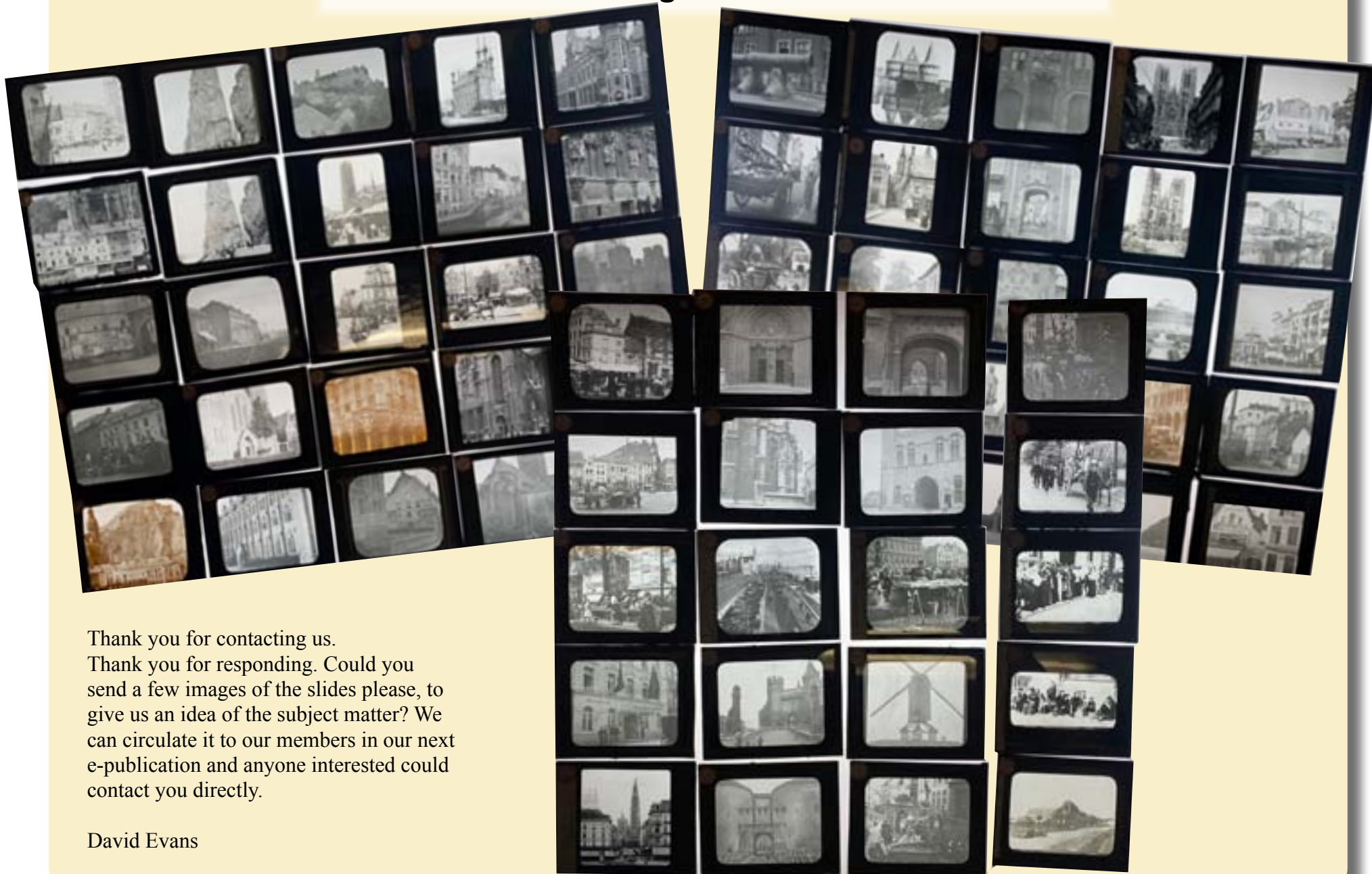
Regards

David

Where are you located? I am sure there are collectors who would like them. We have members in Belgium who might be interested, but if you are in North America the shipping cost might be a bit heavy.

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Lantern Slides of Belgium Dated 1917 continued



Thank you for contacting us.
Thank you for responding. Could you
send a few images of the slides please, to
give us an idea of the subject matter? We
can circulate it to our members in our next
e-publication and anyone interested could
contact you directly.

David Evans

Sell Bluing to Earn a Magic Lantern

From Camille Mecham

nolansmom129@gmail.com

Hello!

I'm doing family history research on my great grandpa and ran across this story while reading his personal history:

"I saw an ad in some paper where you could sell bluing and earn a magic lantern. One had to sell 50 packages at 10¢ per package, send in the five dollars and the magic lantern was sent to you post paid. Them days every housewife used bluing to whiten their clothes, so I managed to talk Mom out of the postage to send for the bluing. It came promptly and my career started as a salesman. I tried to sell bluing for several days, and sold just one package and that was to Mom. Something was wrong and having been taught that prayer was a sure fire way to get things, I prayed and I prayed. Well, I went out again, and sure enough in two or three days I had sold them all. I sent back the \$5.00 and got my magic lantern. This was quite a novelty. You put in a picture and it would reflect from a white wall very dimly."

I'm wondering if you know of this promotion? I'd love to see an ad or a picture of the actual lantern? Or maybe one of your members knows about this? I'd love to include this in the history to give some depth to his story! This history was written later in his life so it was a big deal for him.

Thanks so much!!!

Camille Mecham

From David Evans

Hello Camille

An interesting story! I have not personally heard of that before, but we can include it in our next e-publication (December) and hope that one of our members may know about it. Let us hope for some good responses.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans

A #300 - Lantern Slide Plate Binder



From Adam Shegrud

note2adam@gmail.com

Got myself some vintage photography stuff from the thrift store. Mostly filters and flashes and things.

I found this cardboard that says "#300 - Lantern Slide Plate Binder", shown above. So off I went to learn about Lantern Slide Projectors as I never have heard of them before.

I resell my thrift store finds and it seems this thing is of no use in that way.

So I thought I would offer it up to you there for free (+ Shipping Cost) before I throw it out or send it back to the thrift store.

Let me know if you would like it or if you know anyone you think could use it.

The metal plate comes with a glass plate

continued next page

A #300 - Lantern Slide Plate Binder continued

inside, and a bunch of thin filters that say
Chromega on them.

All the best,
Your Friend,
--Adam

From David Evans

Hi Adam

We'll put it in the next e-publication and
see if anyone recognises it.

Thank you very much for your generosity.

Regards

David

From Adam Shegrud

Thanks a lot, that would be great.

I'll pack it up and have it ready to go for
anyone that wants it. Shipping will prob-
ably be 5-6 bucks for USPS: Ground, I'll
only charge what it costs once I have a
shipping address.

I've got over 200 listings on ebay so I'll
just pack, number, and put it with them if
someone decides they want it.
I have a few packages like that currently.
Found some prototype chips from Micro-
soft Surface Laptop Production, not much
market for that, but there are the rare
people interested in them.

And here is a link to my eBay store if
you think it would go nicely in your an-
nouncement:

<https://www.ebay.com/str/youmeinc>

All the best to you,
Your Friend,
--Adam



From Larry Cederblom

Shown above is a lantern slide pro-
duced by National Pictures Service
Inc, Cincinnati, Ohio, a Metal-Mat
Slide. I have not researched for more
information about these slides and
who produced them. But I will and
publish what I find in a future E-pub.
The slides I have appear to have a film
positive inserted in the metal frame.

REMINDER

You Can Be Number 4

Three members have already renewed
for 2024, who will be number four? Our
membership remains at \$ 50 and runs
the calendar year:

January 1 – December 31,
so now is the perfect time to send in
your 2024 renewal before the busy end
of the year holidays.

Checks or Money Orders, in US dollars
or Euros: Make out to "MLS of US and
Canada" and mail to **Ron Easterday,**
20382 12 th Ave NE, Poulsbo, WA,
USA, 98370.

PayPal: Send funds to **Secretary-**
Treasurer@magiclanternsociety.org.

A Big Thank You to the following:

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Matt Schnittker
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**for contributing
to this months issue.**